

Claims

1. System (1) for the cultivation/movement of plants, comprising a feed/removal conveyor (4) extending adjacent to the cultivation surface (2) and means for moving plants
5 from/to said feed/removal conveyor in a direction perpendicular to the direction of movement of said feed/removal conveyor in said cultivation surface, characterised in that said means comprise a collection conveyor (5), adjoining said feed/removal conveyor, and a distribution device (6), said distribution device comprising a fork-like construction (16), for picking up/setting down the plant, fixed to a carriage (12) that can be moved between a
10 pick-up/set-down position for said fork-like construction at the collection conveyor and a set-down/pick-up position in said cultivation surface.
2. System according to Claim 1, wherein said fork-like construction is designed for engaging a series of plants.
- 15 3. System according to Claim 1 or 2, having a branch conveyor (17) positioned between said feed/removal conveyor and said collection conveyor.
4. System according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said conveyors have a
20 surface supporting the plants.
5. System according to one of the preceding claims, wherein there is a guide (11) for said distribution device extending perpendicularly to said feed/removal conveyor over said cultivation surface.
- 25 6. System according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said fork-like construction can be moved with respect to said carriage (12) in a direction parallel to said feed/removal conveyor.
- 30 7. System according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said collection conveyor (5) can be moved in a direction parallel to the feed/removal conveyor.
8. System according to Claim 7, having a branch conveyor that can be moved with said

collection conveyor in said direction parallel to the feed/removal conveyor.

9. System according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said distribution device can be moved in a direction parallel to the feed/removal conveyor.

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10. Method for the cultivation/movement of plants, comprising feeding/removing a group of said plants in a first horizontal direction, diverting some of said plants from the group in a second horizontal direction at an angle to said first horizontal direction and collecting said diverted plants in a third horizontal direction parallel to said first direction, 10 picking-up said collected plants on raising them and moving said collected plants in a horizontal fourth direction at an angle to said first direction and, on lowering said plants, setting them down on a cultivation surface and vice versa.

11. Method according to Claim 10, wherein, after/when collecting said plants and/or 15 when picking up said collected plants, said collected plants are moved in a direction parallel to said first direction.

12. Method according to Claim 10 or 11, comprising first clearing a cultivation surface according to the method of Claim 10 or 11 and then providing plants on/in said cultivation 20 surface according to Claim 10 or 11.